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Cuba file

COMOR-D-24/34

10 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Proposed Revision of Processing and
Initial Exploitation of Photographic Material
Obtained from Overflights of Cuba

25X1A For information and reference there is attached a paper submitted by the DIA representative, [] It was considered at the meeting of COMOR on Sunday, 9 December, and approved. This paper has been forwarded to the Director of Central Intelligence with a recommendation from COMOR that the procedure outlined in the attached paper be approved.

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[]

James Q. Reber
Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:
Subject paper

25X1A Copies 2, 3--State TCO
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DIA review(s) completed.

DIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE.

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COMOR-D-24/34

Proposed Revision of Processing and Initial Exploitation
of Photographic Material Obtained from Overflights of Cuba

1. During the buildup phase of the Soviet introduction of offensive weapons systems into Cuba, and during the dismantling, removal and shipping of this equipment from Cuba, the highly accelerated priority activities relating to the processing, delivery, and preliminary interpretation of the photographic material achieved was necessary.
2. These priority procedures are still in effect. However, since photographic evidence now indicates that all known offensive missiles and IL-28 bombers have been dismantled and removed from Cuba, consideration should be given to a less accelerated processing and initial readout program at this time. In addition, the NPIC has submitted a proposal which is in consonance with a more regularized system for the readout and dissemination of the photographic product and results achieved to the intelligence community.
3. In light of the above considerations, the Department of Defense recommends that NPIC proposal be adapted provided that:
 - a. Photographic interpretation and dissemination of the photographic results are to continue on a 7-day week basis, and will parallel the operational program executed.
 - b. The readout and dissemination of photographic products from NPIC be accomplished at the beginning of each day (Prox 0800) on a 7-day week basis and will continue without interruption until all material obtained has been readout and the information disseminated.
 - c. These procedures do not preclude a requirement for immediate readout, regardless of the time of day, should the evidence or situation indicate a more accelerated effort is required.
4. Should the above recommendations be accepted, it is proposed that:
 - a. Strategic Air Command:

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(1) Be advised of this arrangement and informed that there is no change in the current procedures that exist insofar as handling the plan at the recovery base, and conducting immediate processing of the film (i. e., that the film is to be processed without delay as soon after the aircraft has landed at the recovery base as possible).

(2) Be authorized latitude in the means and time of delivery of the processed film (both PRIORITY I & II) to Andrews AFB for subsequent delivery to NPIC and NAVPIC, providing the film delivery schedule assigned provides the materials required for commencing work at the beginning of the next working day.

(3) Be authorized direct liaison with NPIC to coordinate and arrange for delivery times on a daily basis.

b. NPIC:

(1) Coordinate delivery schedule with NAVPIC to avoid duplicate deliveries and pickup arrangements whenever possible.

(2) Be authorized direct liaison with SAC relating to film delivery.

5. It is recommended that COMOR approve the above revised procedures for processing and initial readout of Cuba photography, subject to any change that the Cuban situation may dictate. Further recommend that these revised procedures commence as soon as possible. In addition, the current DIA requirement for a special photographic interpretation readout of selected reconnaissance objectives are discontinued effective with implementation of these new procedures.

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